

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, comprising the steps of:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of the functions; and

making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function which is used less than a predetermined number of times.

2. The service management method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said predetermined number of times is set as not less than twice.

3. A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, comprising the steps of:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of the functions; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user.

FOOTNOTES

4. The service management method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

receiving content of notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function which is used less than a predetermined number of times, which corresponds to the usage conditions of the functions transmitted to said service provider, from said service provider; and

making said computer carry out the notification and promotion processing based on the content.

5. A service management method managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a predetermined number of times, to said device.

6. A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function.

7. The service management method as set forth in claim 6, further making said computer carry out the step of:

displaying data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file, on an activation screen of said application program.

8. The service management method as set forth in claim 6, further making said computer carry out the step of:

transmitting data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file.

10022916-12004

9. A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

writing number of detection of said detected function in a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions.

10. The service management method as set forth in claim 9, further making said computer carry out the step of:

displaying data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file, on an activation screen of said application program.

11. The service management method as set forth in claim 9, further making said computer carry out the step of:

transmitting data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file.

10022916-12004  
T0022T-9T5200T

12. A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of the functions; and

making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function which is used less than a predetermined number of times.

13. A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of the functions; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user.

14. A service management program for managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, provided for:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said

Patent 3,632,001

software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a predetermined number of times, to said device.

15. A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function.

16. A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

17. A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for:

making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function which is used less than a predetermined number of times.

checking usage conditions of said plurality of the functions; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user.

19. A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, recording said service management program provided for:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a predetermined number of times, to said device.

20. A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage



conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function.

21. A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

writing number of detection of said detected function in a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions.

10022916-12001